

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

ORIGINAL

KRASKIN, LESSE & COSSON, LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

2120 L Street, N.W., Suite 520

Washington, D.C. 20037

TELEPHONE (202) 296-8890

TELECOPIER (202) 296-8893

May 9, 2003

RECEIVED

MAY - 9 2003

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte in CC Docket Nos: 00-256, 96-45, 98-77, and 98-166

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is an *ex parte* communication in the above-referenced proceedings submitted on behalf of ALLTEL Communications, Inc., Madison River Communications LLC, and TDS Telecommunications Corporation (collectively referred to as the "Mid-Size Companies"). Representatives of the Mid-Size Companies have previously met with Commission Staff and other parties to discuss their collective efforts with respect to the development of an alternative regulatory structure contemplated by the *Further Notice*.

As a result of these efforts, the Mid-Size Companies submitted a detailed proposal on January 31, 2003, initially entitled "The Rural Company Tariff Option." As a result of subsequent *ex parte* communications, the review of the full record in this proceeding, and discussions with other parties, the Mid-Size Companies have modified their proposal and attach hereto "**The Rate-of-Return Carrier Tariff Option.**" The modification is limited and straight-forward; the purpose of the modification is to ensure that all carriers that are not required to participate in price caps are permitted to utilize the proposed option submitted by the Mid-Size Companies.

As explained in detail in the attached proposal, **The Rate-of-Return Carrier Tariff Option** utilizes the Commission's Part 61.39 rules as a basis to provide an additional tariff filing option for all rate-of-return carriers without increasing any administrative or regulatory burdens on those small companies that currently qualify to utilize the Part 61.39 rules. Incorporated into the attached proposal

No. of Copies rec'd 012  
List A B C D E

98-166

**DOCUMENT AVAILABLE  
IN THE LEAD  
DOCKET/RULEMAKING**

SEE DOCKET NO. 00-256 FOR THE DOCUMENT.